Renovation of monuments

590. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether renovation of major monuments like Red Fort and Qutab Minar has been carried out recently without using correct conservation technique and using substandard material;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the renovation work was carried out without preparing a conservation plan;

(d) what are the reasons for carrying out renovation in such a manner; and

(e) what steps have been taken by Government to ensure proper renovation plan for these monuments?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI):(a) No, Sir. The conservation works at Red Fort and Qutab Minar have been carried out with appropriate materials and techniques as per archaeological norms and principles, in vogue.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The conservation work of these monuments were carried out as per routine annual conservation programme prepared every year by the Archaeolgical Survey of India (ASI). A detailed Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan for the Red Fort is under preparation for renovation works.

(e) The ASI has undertaken regular maintenance and conservation programme of the protected monuments besides structural conservation wherever necessary. The conservation of the monuments is a continuous process.

Protection of monuments/museums

591. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ancient monuments/museums are not adequately protected leading to large scale theft of antiques;

(b) whether the recent theft in Patna Museum is a fall out of this deficiency;

(c) whether ASI has expressed its concern over the financial crunch in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(e) what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Protected monuments and site museums under ASI and museum directly under the Ministry of Culture and its autonomous bodies have adopted measures for adequate protection by way of deploying CISF/SIS guards, installation of CCTV, metal detector, fire smokers etc., wherever necessary. Barring a few incidents, no major case of theft has been reported in the recent past.

(b) Since Patna Museum falls under the jurisdiction of the State Government of Bihar, ASI is not responsible.

(c) to (e) Increasing budgetary provisions are being made for the Archaeolgical Survey of India over the years for this purpose. Security arrangement of all the museums under the administrative control of the Government of India are being constantly upgraded and strengthened.

Increasing in credit availability to farming community

592. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the credit availability to the farming community;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) credit disbursement details between 2002-2006 argricultural seasons, State-wise Nationalised Bank-wise; and

(d) share of private lending of agriculture in comparision to public lending?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On account of the policy thrust given by the Government for doubling of credit during the three years period from 2004-05 to 2006-07 the actual credit flow is expected to be